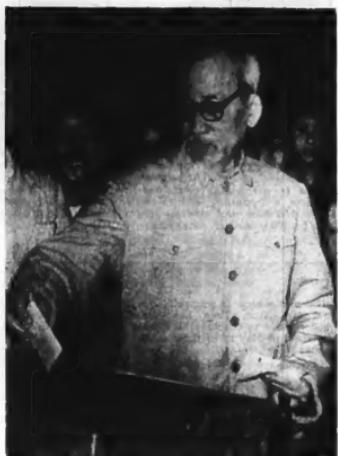


VIETNAM COURIER

Information Weekly E.O. : 46 Tran Hong Dao Street, Hanoi - Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

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RECEIVED
★ A Step Forward of South Viet Nam People's Forces. JUL 2 1968
★ The U.S.A. Must First and Foremost Put A Complete and Unconditional End to the Bombing and All Others Acts of War Against the D.R.V.N.
Page 2



President Ho Chi Minh casting his vote at Hanoi municipal elections (April 28, 1968)

ON MAY 19, 1968

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH IS 78

FOR more than a century, in Viet Nam, the struggle for independence has become the nation's major preoccupation. Each generation tried to find a way out. The citizens asked himself how to put an end to the colonial regime. For a long time, in the eyes of many, difficult and seemingly impossible. With their weapons, their troops, their political and financial means, imperialism and colonialism seemed invincible. Ho Chi Minh fought heroically against the enemy, but without a glimmer of victory at the end of their life.

It was Ho Chi Minh who showed the Vietnamese people the way to independence, who forged the instruments of struggle and gradually led the Vietnamese revolution to victory.

For more than sixty years, he has been seeking and fighting, uniting and educating, unceasingly, devoting his whole life to the cause of the nation and that of the revolution. He founded in succession the Party, the Viet Minh, the People's Army, the first Government of the D.R.V.N. Together with the Party, he

directed the victorious resistance against the French colonialists, then the radical transformations which have turned the country into the first socialist State in South-East Asia.

His personal daily life has become a living example for all — for the fighter at the forefront, the factory manager, the college student, the teacher, as for the head of an agricultural co-op. Not only does everyone know what policy to follow in all circumstances, he is also known for the human qualities he must possess: courage, firmness about principles, total selflessness, absolute devotion to the masses, humanity, moderation, simplicity and sense of collectivism. In order to deserve the fine name of revolutionary, he must possess:

At a time when the Vietnamese people are confronting in a fierce war the most fully equipped and most used imperialism that the world has seen, President Ho Chi Minh appears as the symbol of that unshakable resistance opposed to the aggressor by the whole Vietnamese people. Each of his appeals resonates deeply in all hearts for he gives concrete and clear-cut

Lawyer NGUYEN HUU THO Thanks President HO CHI MINH:

"The South Viet Nam People Are Resolved To March Toward Final Victory."

In the name of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho has expressed in a reply warm thanks to President Ho Chi Minh for his message dated May 8, 1968, praising the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam for "having carried out a general offensive and simultaneous uprisings with great efficiency and winning tremendous victories."

The reply message reads in part:

"In this extremely exhilarating and glorious hour of the struggle for national liberation, the people of the South promise to President Ho Chi Minh and their 17 million kith-and-kin compatriots of the North that so long as the American imperialists do not bring their war of aggression against South Viet Nam to an end, withdraw all American and satellite troops, and let the South Vietnamese people decide their own destiny, the people of South Viet Nam and their patriotic armed forces, united as one man, will never lose hold of their weapons and be resolved to fight to a finish. Only by so doing will they deserve President Ho Chi Minh's praise. Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. No cruel force, no reactionary power, no perfidious manoeuvre can shake the South Vietnamese people's determination to fight and win, and prevent them from marching toward final victory."

South Viet Nam

SAIGON: — Two Puppet Para Battalions Put out of Action on May 10 and 11, One Australian Battalion and One Company Wiped Out on May 13 — F.L.A.F. and People Get Control of Half the City and Hammer at the Enemy in Other Town Quarters.

TAY NINH: — U.S. Signal Central Stormed.

MEKONG DELTA: — Five Puppet Battalions and One U.S. Battalion Wiped Out or Decimated in Four Days.

SOUTHWEST OF DA NANG: — A "U.S. Special Forces" Camp Seized, Two Companies and Two Platoons Wiped Out, 16 Planes and Helicopters Downed.

North Viet Nam

First Half of May: 45 U.S. Planes Downed.

UP TO MAY 17, 1968

2,923 U.S. Aircraft Grounded.

shape to what is more or less clearly in everybody's mind, and arouses in all the noblest sentiments and deepest aspirations.

For 14 years now, the Americans have spent billions of dollars, dropped millions of tons of bombs, resorted to all kinds of psychological warfare without ever succeeding in tarnishing Uncle Ho's image in the hearts of our Southern compatriots. More splendidly than ever, his image shines through the heroic resistance strength into the fighters.

A profound patriot, Ho Chi Minh was also the first Viet-

namese to show his people the road of proletarian internationalism.

By all the fibers of his being, he is bound to the world revolution. In the very first days of his militancy, he participated in the struggle of all colonial peoples, took up in moving accents the defense of African Black people, and supported the October Revolution.

His internationalism is not an abstract stand, and Ho Chi Minh knows how to

import to his people that respect and affection for all peoples of the world—including the American people—which characterize proletarian internationalism.

The Vietnamese people, from North to South, are happy and proud of having Uncle Ho at their head. They feel greatly delighted to know that he is in very good health and is steering the destiny of the nation with an unflinching hand.

Following along the path charted by Uncle Ho, the Vietnamese people are sure to win.

A STEP FORWARD OF SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE'S FORCES

Abridged text of a military commentary by Chien Thang, published in the May 12, 1968 issue of the Quan Doi Nhat Dan (People's Army)

THE general offensive and widespread uprisings launched early in Spring this year in South Viet Nam have triggered the unavoidable defeat of the U.S. aggressors. Since the night of May 4, new and heavy defeats have been inflicted upon them by the revolutionary armed forces and people who have been fighting away at 150 enemy positions in 80 urban centres in South Viet Nam. The present situation in South Viet Nam therefore has the following characteristics:

1. A New Advance of South Viet Nam Revolutionary Forces and a Further Weakening of U.S. Puppet Forces

THE current concerted attacks are the continuation of the general offensive and widespread uprisings starting with the first days of this year's Spring. They have developed the previous victories and are creating the premises for many others. Thanks to a timely application of freshly gained experiences, these current attacks have been successful, owing to a close combination of various fighting methods and a greater fighting efficiency.

By hitting the most important targets, these attacks have wiped out a great part of the enemy's sting in terms of men and war materials, adding to the mortal wounds already inflicted on the enemy.

A skilful combination of attacks in the towns and in the countryside has been achieved. Hammer blows have been delivered at the provincial administration both at central and grass-roots levels, while severe punishment has been meted out to both cruel police agents and village despots, and serious destructions have been wrought on the remaining "strategic hamlets". The enemy has been placed and sits both inside their camps and while in the field. The revolutionary forces, while fighting, have seized every opportunity to increase and develop their own strength, which accounts for their great success both military and political.

The powerful step-up of the attacks and their brilliant results show that the South

Viet Nam people have raised their fighting strength and reached a new high insofar as the conduct of military operations (especially in urban centres) concerned. The Saigon-Cholon armed forces and people have succeeded in knocking down enemy aircraft and putting out of commission enemy armoured vehicles. They have also managed to wipe out whole paper battalions and heavily trounced whole American brigades. The towns in the bigger cities have held the enemy. This fully bears out the tremendous growth of the revolution's battle forces and the improvement in their technical equipment. The steady progress and smooth synchronization of the powerful, determined and tenacious to the innumerable strength and good organization and co-ordination of the revolutionary forces.

The most striking feature of the current attacks is the close combination of the military offensive and the people's uprising. These two kinds of actions are linked up together and help each other to develop. It is only by fighting off the counter-attack units of the enemy, by smashing his repressive apparatus (administrative, political, psychological and chiefly police units) can the mass uprisings be efficiently assisted. Renewable, the powerful popular upheavals in the towns help the revolutionary armed forces to wipe out the enemy, suppress their cruel agents and vouch for success in the towns.

In an attempt to take the towns away from the towns, the U.S. aggressors have launched a number of operations, such as Operation *Ceteis Victory*, Operation *Total Victory* etc., in the hope of easing off the pressure by the revolutionary forces who may mount fresh attacks any time. They have also conducted diversions, such as the one at A.S. 4 at present, in the hope of luring the revolutionary forces out of the towns. At the same time U.S. and puppet troops have desperately tried to strengthen the defences around urban centres, especially Saigon, with terrorist raids, searches, a curfew, etc.

Nevertheless, far from being fought off, the revolutionary war has come to stay in the towns. It is being stepped up, turning the war of the enemy into the most dangerous battlefield for them.

very early support by U.S. forces.

What is more, the commitment of U.S. forces to the towns has rendered more acute the U.S. shortage in mobile forces in the field. In a word, the confused reaction and disorganized resistance of the U.S.-puppets have made their weaknesses more conspicuous.

2. The Rear of the U.S.-Puppets Has Been Turned Into a Battlefield Most Dangerous for Them

AFTER their heavy setbacks at the beginning of this year, the U.S.-puppets have been taking their brains for a means to push the war far out of the towns. Their efforts have been epitomized in the "seven priority tasks" set by Ambassador Bunker with the "improvement of the situation in the towns" as the most important one.

This is because militarily speaking, South Viet Nam's urban centres now constitute the innermost periphery of the enemy's defences and unrest in the towns means more than a breach in this defence line. Politically speaking, the patching up of the puppet army and administration is impossible without a better situation in the towns.

The current attacks, besides bringing about a new weakening of the enemy, are

3. The Current Attacks Are Dynamiting the "Hub" of American Neo-Colonialism in South Viet Nam and Exacerbating Social Conflicts in the Towns

DESPITE the presence of over 500,000 troops of their own, the U.S. aggressors have had to seek political support in the puppet army and administration. The towns have been used as a springboard for the invasion of the countryside, a showcase for American neo-colonialism, the seat for their repressive machine, and the immediate rear for the U.S.-puppets.

Under the repeated attacks of the revolutionary forces, the enemy control is shrinking rapidly and is now confined mainly to the towns. For this reason urban centres have become the last redoubts and footholds of the Saigon administration, the last shopwindow of U.S. neo-colonialism, and the "hub" of the U.S. neo-colonialist policy.

The relentless revolutionary war in the towns of South Viet Nam has made one thing very clear: the balance of forces and the general strategic situation have undergone a great change, very favourable to South Viet Nam's revolution and very detrimental to the U.S.-puppets.

The current attacks, besides bringing about a new weakening of the enemy, are

(Continued page 7)



Enemy strongholds set ablaze by people's forces

map of South Viet Nam in early 1968 shows an almost uniform red area extending from the 17th parallel to Cape Ca Mau, from the Viet Nam-Cambodia border to the South Sea (South China Sea): the liberated areas. On this red background, hardly a white line and black dots are visible. This is not a quite temporary one, still exercised by the American expeditionary corps and its Saigon puppets, cities, provincial capital, district centres, military bases, a few stretches of

THE LIBERATED ZONE:

IMAGE OF FUTURE SOUTH VIET NAM

The Birth of the People's Revolutionary Power

THE development and consolidation of the liberated zones has been marked by the birth of a people's revolutionary power at various levels, the whose organizes the people's masses and their representatives. In Mo Cay district, Ben Tre province, a veritable festival honours the birth of revolutionary power in 57 villages with a population of 135,000. Particularly worthy of note was the emergence of a People's Revolutionary Committee in Thus Thien-Hue, the first organ of revolutionary power at provincial level. The People's Revolutionary Committee represents representatives of various popular strata and is headed by Dr Le Van Hao, professor at Saigon and Hue universities. Dr Le Van Hao and the members of the Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces of Hué.

In March, the Thus Thien-Hue People's Revolutionary Committee met to approve the 1968 provincial budget and discuss various measures aimed at developing agriculture, production, mobilizing manpower and material resources to serve the resistance, carrying out the agrarian reform as well as other important problems.

The birth of a people's revolutionary power in the liberated

2.6 tons to 3.6 tons over 200,000 hectares of ricefields. In order to cope with the enemy attacks, various measures have been taken to increase output, the free peasants have engaged in the path of mutual cooperation. In early January 1968, in Quang Nam and Phu Yen provinces, 5,500 mutual aid and cooperative groups had been set up. Large-scale production and reinvigoration by those reforms the peasants in liberated regions have greatly increased their resistance. Of their own free will, they finance a budget of special appropriations for the resistance. The figures have been surpassed in Ca Mau and other provinces. Many families contributed twice their normal output. Others gave a supplement for the combatants.

In the liberated regions, old traditions, the young people have shown great enthusiasm for military service. Here are the figures for three districts in Can Tho province: in Phu Nhieu district, 1,000 young people of both sexes enlisted in the armed forces; 2,000 young people of both sexes enlisted in the regular garrisons; others joined the "Young Volunteers" Brigades serving the front. Large numbers of young girls have enlisted into separate armed units.

On all these lines of operations, people's units" have been built up. All the above helps understand why the people's armed forces have rapidly increased and been able to launch relentless attacks on the enemy.

A Radiant Future

WHILE waging arduous struggle, the people in the liberated areas are building a new life. Great changes have taken place. A patriotic and democratic educational movement has been established. Everywhere, schools are built and teachers trained. In Dien Bien and Duy Xuyen districts, 10 primary and 10 secondary classes have been opened since the beginning of this year, with an enrolment of 4,000. In Binh Son, the Nghe province, primary and three secondary classes have been set up. In almost all provinces, districts and towns, schools, established, training teachers for primary and secondary classes. Such schools exits even in some districts, owing to the difficult conditions of the liberated zone, there is a college of medicine, training doctors and a certain number of medical institutions, training assistant doctors. Colleges for other disciplines are being planned.

In the past year, the liberated zone has recorded fine achievements. A health network extends even to newly-liberated villages. Popular health posts and in full ensemble of Ben Tre province gave birth to 1,000 babies in April. Roving projectionist teams are even, at least at the gates of villages and rice fields. An exhibition of the work of a well-known painter drew as many as 100,000 visitors: 100,000 copies of reproductions of his work have been distributed to the people.

Under the leadership of the N.F.L., the liberated regions have exerted a powerful attraction on the people living in areas still under enemy control. The people's armed forces have been carried through. Out of a total of 3,000,000 ha of arable land and fields and land in South Viet Nam, more than 2,000,000 have been distributed to the peasants. Rice output and in turn, rice yield has also been achieved in a rational and fair way. For these reasons, the people's armed forces have been able to increase their production. In Long An province, one-harvest ricefields have been turned into two-crop ones. In My Tho, rice output has increased from



Ben Tre province grapefruits for fighters at the battlefield

While mounting victorious attacks on cities and provincial capitals, the liberation forces destroyed or captured nearly all the puppet administrative, judicial and police apparatus. They smashed the puppet administration at the base, and made away with their districts, provinces and cities. The last part of rural areas still under enemy control were liberated. A communiqué of the High Command of the People's Army of Vietnam announced that "within a period of 45 days, counting from January 31, 1968, a total of 1,200,000 ha of land in the Lao border, the right bank of the Mekong, the right bank of the Lao border, the Lao border, are firmly in their hands." Though still not all in one block, the liberated zones that comprised the right bank of the Mekong, are of great strategic importance, on both the military and political planes.

Failure of the Latest Pacification Plans

NGO DINH DIEM's downfall was followed in 1965 by bitter internal strife and the so-called "special war." Popular uprisings broke out with increased violence, and in the towns, the people took up arms to defend their homes. Until then 6,000 "strategic hamlets" had been destroyed. In September 1968, the number of the more than 8,000 camouflaged concentration camps set up by the enemy were liquidated. These so-called hamlets were transformed into combat villages. The liberated zone extended over four-fifths of the territory, with a popu-

lation of more than ten million. In 1965, American troops landed in mass in South Viet Nam. Through a pincer strategy, the Americans, set up the guillotine in the north and the "strategic hamlets": on the one hand, they launched "search-and-destroy" operations, on the other, they "pacified" the population. But all their plans were foiled: the winter-spring campaigns of 1965-66 and 1967-68, the "strategic hamlets" on the one hand, they were summarily executed. The rural people, unarmed but inspired by great hatred for the Americans, rose up in a spirit of revolution, rose up. The puppet administration at village and hamlet levels was knocked down by the people. The American puppet troops, became members of their own destiny, managed their own affairs. "Self-government" was born. The light of life in the liberated regions. Those included two categories: "free areas," completely liberated, where the people's revolutionary power had come to exist; and areas where "the enemy's grip had been broken," where the puppet administration, paralysed by the popular struggle, was only nominal and resigned itself to "neutrality."

The setting up of these liberated areas was the material basis for the birth of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (December 20, 1965).

VIET NAM AND THE WORLD AT LARGE

Cambodia Resolutely Defends Her Independence, Neutrality and Peace

Persevering and Heroic Struggle Against American Aggressive Imperialism

Since the American imperialists have been plotting to turn Cambodia into a new U.S. colony and military base for aggression and link in their "anti-communist" chain in South-East Asia. The setting up of the SEATO aggressive bloc and placing of Cambodia, Laos and South Viet Nam under its "umbrellas" were designed to control Cambodia and to tie up the aggressive acts of the U.S. imperialists. But since the very beginning this scheme has not worked. At the Bandung Afro-Asian Conference in 1955, the Head of State of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk, made plain Cambodia's policy of peace and neutrality. In November 1954, a law was confirmed this neutrality and the will for peace of the Cambodian people and stressed that Cambodia would not commit any aggression but in case she is victim of aggression, she will fight stubbornly to safeguard her national independence and neutrality. The Cambodian government also strongly protested against the U.S. imperialists placing Cambodia into the area of "protection" of the SEATO bloc.

Failing to carry out their dark plan through intimidation and blackmail, the U.S. imperialists brazenly egg on their henchmen to subversive activities, assassination and riots as a means to sap Cambodia. They maintain a gang of Cambodian traitors who set up the organization *Khmer Serei* to carry out spying and subversive activities. They give orders to their Salang and their lackeys to violate the air space and territorial waters of Cambodia and mount provocative attacks on her borderland. American troops in South Viet Nam have many times attacked or commanded attacks against Cambodia.

Having the ugly and perfidious nature of the U.S. imperialists, the Cambodian people have taken drastic measures accordingly. In November 1963, the Cambodian government turned down U.S. "economic aid" and, added in June 1965, it severed diplomatic relations with the U.S. The American "Peace Corps" and "Aid Missions" had to quit Cambodia. The Cambodian

Government energetically denounced before world public opinion the U.S. and its satellites' aggression.

The U.S. imperialists believed that without American "aid" Cambodia's economy would be in deep water and that the Cambodian Government would again ask for help and accept U.S. conditions. But they did not reckon with the Cambodian people's patriotism. Over the last few years the Cambodian people have made great efforts in economic construction and have removed substantial portions of Cambodian territory.

It is clear that the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys have grossly infringed upon

the cheek to intimidate the U.S. will bring the war from Viet Nam to Cambodia and will seize the part of her territory left of the Mekong river.

In reply to these criminal activities of the U.S. imperialists and their myrmidons the Cambodian people have resolute and determinedly worked on the path of struggle, steadily throwing all provocations of the enemy. Their brilliant exploits—repelling the enemy's attacks on the borderland, shooting ablate U.S. planes and overcast violating Cambodian territory—have won the admiration of the Cambodian people.

It is clear that the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys have grossly infringed upon

the sovereignty and territory of Cambodia in disregard of vehement protests from the Royal Government of Cambodia and from the demand from world public opinion. These criminal acts of the U.S. imperialists and their satellites are an important part of Viet Nam.

The statement read:

"...we the Cambodian of 1965, from the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, issue a statement condemning the encroachments on Cambodia's territory by the U.S. imperialists."

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800 U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED OVER LAOS

THE Laotian patriotic armed forces in Sain Hoa (Central Laos) on April 17 shot down one U.S. jet, and on April 18, 1965, after their ignominious failure in the "special war" in South Viet Nam they have harboured a deep hatred for Cambodia. They have urged their lackeys in Thailand and South Viet Nam and the Khmer Serei to carry out sabotaging provocations, carry out subversive activities from within and invade Cambodia by armed forces from without so as to force her to give up her policy of peace and neutrality. Encroachments on Cambodian territories by U.S. and puppet forces are recorded in the following statements:

The Vietnamese people are deeply moved by the warn warning given them by the Cambodian patriotic armed forces in their Saigon headquarters that they must order their Saigon forces to burn an outpost into Cambodian territory and to commit acts of aggression and violence against the Cambodian Government. And to cover up their crimes and seek grounds for aggression, they launched a fierce plundering campaign against Cambodia, trampling up such series as the "Kingdom of South Viet Nam" and the "Liberation Army" which are close neighbours of the Cambodian people have taken drastic measures accordingly. In November 1963, the Cambodian government turned down U.S. "economic aid" and, added in June 1965, it severed diplomatic relations with the U.S. The American "Peace Corps" and "Aid Missions" had to quit Cambodia. The Viet Nam-Cambodia joint communiqué issued on

January 5, 1965 on the occasion of the visit to the D.R.V.N. of Prince Phnom, Cambodian Foreign Minister, laid stress on the long-standing solidarity between both countries. The communiqué said:

"Viet Nam and Cambodia are close neighbours; the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples live on the same Indochinese peninsula; they have not given up their war expansion scheme. More than ever the peoples of Viet Nam and Cambodia will increase their solidarity and mutual assistance and, together with the brother Lao people, step up the struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors until complete victory."

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The Viet Nam-Cambodia joint communiqué issued on

VIET NAM COURIER

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

Military Operations

In South Viet Nam, the P.L.A.F. continue to hammer at the enemy. Violent attacks were recorded in particular since the night of May 4.

According to reports released by *Giai Phong Press Agency*, up to May 13 there were 1,000 attacks in 111 cities, towns and urban centres and about 50 bases of various kinds. Units of companies of the U.S. combat troops and puppet armies were put out of action.

The enemy's command which was facing a great shortage of manpower witnessed in the last few days the use of all its resources of its best troops in all theatres of operations at a quicker tempo than in the *7th* offensive. Thus in the northern provinces of South Viet Nam (Quang Tri and Thua Thien) the enemy took 1,000 casualties (most of them G.I.'s) on May 5 and 6. In Binh Dinh Province, 1,000 U.S. Marines and "cav." were put out of action between May 5 and 13. In Binh Dinh Province, 15 km northwest of Saigon, U.S. Army Brigades 173 lost on May 5 and 6 two armoured companies and three infantry companies. In Saigon and elsewhere from May 5 to 9, the P.L.A.F. and puppet civilians killed or wounded 7,500 enemy troops, including 2,500 G.I.'s. In the Mekong Delta, the enemy lost 6 battalions between May 3 and 9.

The U.S. Command has not only not withdrawn along the Khe Sanh axis as at the beginning of this year. At present, besides the 6,000 U.S. Marines pinned down in the famous mountain on Highway No 9, thousands of other U.S. paratroops and puppet soldiers, left in the lurch in another valley southwest of Binh Dinh at the beginning of May, are tied down far from assailed towns and urban centres. The remnants of enemy mobile forces station-

ed in the north, made up chiefly of Marines and First Cav., are committed at Dong Ha, a peripheral sector, where since April 29, the P.L.A.F. have put out of action at least 4,000 combat soldiers, mostly G.I.'s, in two weeks. Thus whittled down, the U.S. combat troops are more weakened than previously.

THE enemy was technical means were also P.L.A.F. choices. Thus in the February last. Among the targets of the P.L.A.F., there were about thirty airfields. Dozens of planes and helicopters were destroyed in bases, while hundreds of them were destroyed on the ground: 35 helicopters on May 4, on A Luoi airfield, 45 km south-east of Da Nang; 15 on Bien Hoa and near Da Nang Da, base of U.S. Division 35, northwest of Saigon (May 3); and 25 at Tan Son Nhut the following day. Saigon and its periphery, 50 planes and helicopters were downed or destroyed between May 5 and 9.

Hundreds of tanks, armoured cars and lorries have been destroyed by the P.L.A.F. The most striking example is that on May 5 alone, 50 vehicles were destroyed in a park north of Hué; 56 armoured cars near Da Nang; 47 near Da Nang Du; 29 in a base of the U.S. Army Engineers Regiment 11, 50 km southeast of Bien Hoa; near Saigon, on May 8, 74 tanks and armoured ambulances were destroyed or destroyed in an attack on a park 18 km northwest of the town, and four days later, 50 others and 10 ordnance pieces were destroyed at Tan Son Nhut. The enemy also suffered heavy losses in many ambushes: over 100 vehicles were destroyed or burnt in three ambuscades on May 6 and 8, respectively southeast of Can Tho (Mekong Delta), near Cai Chi, northwest of Saigon and south of

Kontum (Western High Plateau).

The P.L.A.F. also pounded warships: On May 5 a 10,000-ton cargoboat was set afire between Saigon and the sea; on May 6, 4 vessels were sunk on the Perfume River below Hué; on May 8, 2 ships were sunk to the north and 2 others burnt northeast of Ben Tre town in a branch of the Mekong River; the following day, a 1,000-ton ship was damaged below Saigon; on May 11, near Ca Man, the northernmost tip of South Viet Nam, 3 vessels were

burnt destroying bridges and sabotaging miles of road, chiefly around Saigon and in the Mekong Delta. The P.L.A.F. and civilians have virtually cut off vital centres of the enemy, who has thus been unable to put up a concerted resistance even in narrow sectors.

Finally, the depots and logistic bases of the enemy have always been selected targets of the P.L.A.F. The most striking example is that on May 14, 100 km northeast of Saigon, which had been subjected to many assaults, was gutted for hours by a big fire. Many fuel tanks near Nha Trang, 100 km west of Da Nang, were set afire after a many days' pounding by P.L.A.F. artillery. The May 14 shelling of Da Nang had turned this town into a big conflagration visible in the day within a 30 km radius.

ENGAGEMENT IN SAIGON

THE battle in Saigon took pride of place in last week's military operations.

Three U.S. brigades hurriedly dispatched to Saigon to reinforce the depots and pet army suffered heavy losses. Street fighting went on May 13 and 14 in many town quarters, and in many hours, Phu Nhieu road, the Y-shaped bridge, the bridge over the Saigon river, Phu Nhieu road (now a military base of puppet troops) and Tan Tao Tho Hiep sector, north of Tan Son Nhut. The two puppet battalions were put out of action on May 10 and 11. The military and administrative offices located in

"fashionable" districts continue to be harassed by P.L.A.F. artillery on May 15.

Northwest of Saigon on May 15, a U.S. company and a puppet company were put out of action by the P.L.A.F. who seized the signal centre at Ba Den near Tay Ninh town.

At 85 km southwest of Da

Nang, near the Viet Nam-Laos frontier, on May 15, the P.L.A.F. forced the enemy to evacuate by air the "special forces" camp at Da Nho. In 2 days, the enemy had a total of 15 aircraft wiped out, 15 aircraft including 14 freighters downed and an important quantity of war materials seized by the P.L.A.F.

SAIGON-CHOLON-GIA DINH ALLIANCE CONVENES MEETING

A meeting of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces in Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh was convened on May 5 at a locality in Saigon. The meeting studied the National Salvation Manifesto of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, its position and program of action, and completely agreed with its sensible attitude towards the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Through discussions and changes of views, the meeting decided to establish Cholon—Gia Dinh Committee of Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and issued an emergency appeal to the people in the region.

The meeting was attended by members of its Preparatory Committee, representatives of patriotic and democratic forces composed of personalities, intellectuals, students, writers, artists, journalists, traders, Saigon army officers, puppet administrative personnel, etc., who are of different political and religious convictions, and various organizations in Saigon—Gia Dinh.

Speaking on behalf of the Preparatory Committee, Professor Le Van Giap made an assessment of the struggle waged for national salvation by the Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh people, and the great success the latter had won as a contribution to the cause of national liberation of the entire people in South Viet Nam. The professor laid special stress on the heroic and heroic uprisings conducted by the Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh people who, in so doing, are dealing one stinging blow after

another at the enemy, right in their rear.

The gathering fully approved the National Salvation Manifesto of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, its position and completely agreed with its sensible attitude towards the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Through discussions and changes of views, the meeting decided to establish Cholon—Gia Dinh Committee of Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, whose members fully represent the broadest patriotic, democratic and peace forces in the region.

The emergency appeal enigmatically passed on the population in Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh to actively join the Alliance or act in co-operation with it in order to accomplish the broadest further the united front against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

The appeal was signed on behalf of the Alliance in Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh army by its Chairman—Professor Le Van Giap—and its Secretary-General—Ho Huu Nhat, ex-President of the Students' Union.

The meeting sent a message to the Central Committee of the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. expressing its confidence in the latter's leadership and its intent to do its best to help achieve the sacred objectives expounded in the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. Manifesto.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL DRIVE

ACCORDING to still incomplete figures released by *Giai Phong Press Agency*, in 75 days of springings (from January 31 to April 15, 1968) a total count of over 3 million urban and rural people, armed with rudimentary weapons, co-ordinated their action with the P.L.A.F. attacks on the enemy. They killed or hunted down, cut-throat, and captured the puppet administration in numerous districts and hamlets... They assaulted the "pacification" teams, wiped

them out or drove them from their assignment areas, thus foiling the "pacification" plan of the U.S. Over 100 villages and 600 hamlets with 1,600,000 inhabitants were liberated. Popular power has been set up in the liberated areas of Ca Mau province and in most of the liberated zones of the provinces of My Tho, Kien Phong, Ban Tre, An Giang, Long An, Lam Dong, Quang Ninh, Quang Tri, etc. Even in Saigon and Hau, the people have got control

of many streets and town districts and carried out armed propaganda in areas still held by the enemy.

The people contributed to the ending of enemy communication lines and joined "people's basic services," carried supplies, evacuated the wounded and helped the armed forces. The popular masses—a strong political force—were also very active in taking up arms, soldiers into surrendering their posts and crossing over with their kits to the side of the revolution.



G.I.'s scrambling for seats in evacuation planes at Khe Sanh